

STEM SPOTLIGHT

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QHow did you select your college major/certification program?

AI began college studying chemical engineering because I envisioned myself working for NASA. After learning that NASA was unlikely and learning more about the careers for most chemical engineers, I realized I was more talented at working with computers.

QWhat was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

AI had several teachers and friends already studying “computer engineering” which later became software engineering. Both encouraged me to explore the areas of computer science that excited me.

QIf you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

AMy high school did not offer an elective on personal finances. If I could have taken a personal finance class in high school, I think I would have been better prepared to maintain a budget.

QWhat is your favorite aspect of your job?

AIn my career, I am often exposed to new technologies that have the potential to effect a major change in the business.



QHow does you/your major make a positive impact on society/our community?

AFedEx has a positive impact upon society by ensuring that important documents and packages arrive at their destination quickly and safely. Software engineers continue to develop tools to disseminate information more quickly thus making the world a smaller place and bringing people closer together.

QWhat's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?

AI have been lucky to work on several challenging and interesting software projects in my career that are used in every facet of FedEx from packaging to delivering to making sure all the equipment used is working to the best efficiency. The most interesting projects involve massive, complex systems that help 50,000+ drivers at FedEx pickup and deliver packages efficiently using the latest information on geography, scheduling, and real-time package movement information. One such system is our FedEx Smartpad, a tool useful for tracking FedEx shipped packages.

QWhat makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

AMy current focus in software is on GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software that provides mapping, routing, and geographic analysis tools. This is exciting because this technology is challenging, is evolving rapidly, and has the potential to change not only our business but every aspect of business, environment, government, and society.

QWhat advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

ASoftware engineering is probably the most rapidly changing industry in the world right now. It is more important to learn problem solving and analytical thinking than any particular technology. If you are interested in software engineering, I recommend hands-on experience with many different technologies. You will likely find that the thought process is similar regardless of the specific technology. If you don't enjoy problem-solving, software engineering is probably not for you.

